

Dear Commissioners:

Stop hidden phone fees so I can truly compare prices of phone services. I support the petition filed by the National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates and endorsed by other consumer advocacy organizations. CG Docket No. 04-208, Petition for Declaratory Ruling Regarding Truth-In-Billing and Billing Format, is long overdue.

Phone bills should be truthful and easy to understand. Thirty plus years ago we all were afraid to call long distance due to the high rates, well along came deregulation and more competition, The Big AT&T was busted up, and at that time our local bill was well under \$20 even if we had several lines. Now you can get long distance for pennies, I pay 1.9 cents per min intra or interstate, but My local bill (Verizon) is over \$65 and I only have two lines with the only extra being caller ID. With fees on top of fees on my local bill, many of which I don't understand, what happened to the competition in the local market? I would get rid of my home phone as many people have, except for the convenience and my internet connection. I wish something could be done, there must be some accounting for these greedy companies (Verizon). I urge the FCC to do whatever it can to bring these companies in line, and to protect the consumer from these outrageous charges and unreadable bills for a simple service that has been around since old Mr. Bell.

Because this practice is tolerated by the FCC, long distance and wireless phone companies are able to hide the true cost of service. These add-ons make the advertised price of service significantly less than the amount of the check I have to write each month to pay the bill. Competition will not work if consumers cannot accurately compare prices when shopping for service.

Many states are stepping up to address this problem. They should be allowed to proceed. However, the FCC shouldn't shirk its responsibility, nor limit states from doing more.

The FCC should immediately grant the NASUCA petition to investigate billing practices, and prohibit phone and wireless companies from imposing separate monthly fees, line items or surcharges unless expressly mandated by law or the charge is expressly authorized by a governmental authority.